Socialist Worker

SUPPORT THE AMBULANCE DRIVERS:

A STRIKE WHICH HAS TO BE WON

Dublin's ambulance drivers have taken strike action to win a £29 pay increase. Since 1989, they have made a number of productivity concessions. Now they want to be paid -- exactly the same as other workers who have already received this increase.

The Eastern Health Board have tried to break the strike by bringing in the army and scab ambulance crews from Waverly ambulances. The Waverly scabs have been taunting the strikers with their cheques.

The media have been claiming that the ambulance strike puts the lives of patients at risk. But the dedication of the ambulance drivers is second to none.

When there was a fire in Dub Laoghaire last week, ambulance drivers lifted their pickets to help the injured. Their struggle today is part of a wider battle for a decent health service which will give patients better care when there is a proper well paid staff.

No money in the country?

The Fianna Fail/Labour cabinet have made this strike a test issue. They claim that there is no money in the country. It is a complete lie.

- There were able to squander plenty of money in the currency crisis last year while the speculators made millions gambling against the Irish pound.
- They were able to let the super-rich have a tax amnesty

How the strike can be won

It is vital that this strike is won. Non nursing personnel in the EHB have their own claim for £17.53 to make up for the low wages they suffer. This claim should be brought forward and fought for now rather than put back until January of next year.

Full solidarity action through the health service can bring results. The EHB clerical workers have already shown this.

But the strike should not be called of just on a promise of talk at the Employer Labour Conference. Once we are out, we should stick it out for the full claim. The ambulance workers deserve this.

Issued by Socialist Workers Movement, PO. Box 1648, Dublin 4.

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